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Mother's Day
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WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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LifeAnswers

War vet: N. Korea prayers an 'act of love'

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists will fast and pray for 22 million people of North Korea during the 1999 Day of Prayer and Fasting, scheduled from 6 p.m. Friday, May 21, to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 22.

By asking God to bring his peace to this former enemy, Southern Baptists will commit "an act of love" that testifies to God's power to change lives, says a veteran of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Ken Dupuy, a businessman from Longview, Texas, has learned firsthand the power of God's amazing love for North Koreans. He once fought them as enemies. Then he ministered to them through relief projects when famine struck the country. He saw his former enemies as real people who are loved by God.

"They weren't objects anymore," he said. "These were real people and they were in real trouble. You could see the pain and misery these people were going through."

When North Koreans asked why he was bringing them food from Southern Baptists, Dupuy answered, "Because God loves you."

Intercersory prayer is "an act of love,"

flooding, soil erosion, and crop loss. Up to 2 million North Koreans have died of hunger and related diseases since 1995, according to some estimates.

Southern Baptists have responded repeatedly to the physical needs of North Korea by sending shiploads and planeloads of food, medicine and thousands of coats to help hungry children survive North Korea's freezing winters.

Now, God is calling on them to send an all-embracing blanket of prayer — not because North Koreans are "on their knees" as a nation, but because he loves them, Sprinkle said.

Southern Baptist churches interested in participating in the North Korea prayer emphasis can obtain a free resource kit, which includes a video and viewing guides, a prayer guide, fasting guidelines, clip art and a reprint of an article on North Korea from "The Commission" magazine. To order the kit, visit the IMB website at www.imb.org/resources; e-mail the IMB resource center at resource.center@imb.org; or call toll-free 1-800-866-3621.



Dupuy said. "The more you are involved in it, the greater the love you have, and the greater the capacity for love you have."

"We know God loves all the peoples of the earth, regardless of their situation," said Randy Sprinkle, director of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's prayer strategy office. "We need to view the North Korean people as beloved of God and the focus of his saving grace in Christ, regardless of their current social and religious context."

North Korea is struggling under massive physical need caused by years of drought and



PREPARING TO HELP — Ken Dupuy (right) discusses North Korea relief efforts with U.S. Representatives Tony Hall (left), D-Ohio, and Frank Wolf (center), R-Va. Though he once fought the North Koreans as enemies, Dupuy's perspective changed when he helped distribute humanitarian aid to North Koreans suffering from famine. Now he sees them as people God loves and to whom Southern Baptists must present the hope of the gospel. Southern Baptists will focus on North Koreans during the annual Day of Prayer and Fasting, May 21-22. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

First, Dallas eyes N.C. pastor

DALLAS (BP) — First Church, Dallas, without a pastor for 18 months, has apparently offered the job to the president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, a pastor in High Point, N.C. According to media outlets in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Mac Brunson, senior pastor of Green Street Church, High Point, has been offered the Dallas post but has not yet given the church an answer.

"I've not given them a reply," Brunson told The Dallas Morning News in its April 20 edition. "I'm still in the praying process." Calls to Brunson's office by Baptist Press April 21 were not returned.

If Brunson accepts the Dallas pastorate, he would follow O. S. Hawkins who left the church to become president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He would be the third pastor this decade. The legendary W. A. Criswell, now 89, was joined by Joel Gregory in 1990 as co-pastor. Gregory left 20 months later.

Brunson, 41, has been pastor of the North Carolina church for six years and was elected president of the state convention in 1997. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

First Church, Dallas, is one of the largest Southern Baptist churches with a membership of 26,000, a campus of several blocks in downtown Dallas, and two dozen satellite congregations.

Looking back

10 years ago

Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions top one billion dollars during the 100-year anniversary of the offering. The first goal in 1888 was \$2,000 to send two missionaries to China — surpassed by giving \$3,3115.26, it was enough to send three missionaries.

20 years ago

Three people are granted honorary degrees by William Carey College: Baker James Cauthen, president of the Foreign Mission Board; Harriet L. Mather, long time leader in nursing education at Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans; and Burl Red, Christian composer/arranger.

50 years ago

Charles McKay accepts the pastorate of First Church, Pascagoula, succeeding L. E. Green, who resigned to accept the pastorate at Prentiss. McKay, a native Mississippian and graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, has served as a Mobile, Ala., pastor since 1945.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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What the world needs now

Just about everyone has had their say about Littleton. So-called "experts," many of them simple self-promoters, have attempted to pin the blame for the mass murder at Columbine High School on everything from easy gun purchases to uninvolved parents; from Adolf Hitler to Marilyn Manson; from the Internet to video games.

Airwaves and newsprint have been saturated with news of the tragedy for two weeks. Every possible angle has been covered, as it should be, but the constant barrage of bloody visuals and new revelations has frightened too many first-graders across the country who have to get up every morning and go to their schools with those images in their little minds.

We have heard the usual psychobabble offered on behalf of the two high school students who committed this most evil act and then took their own lives. We have been made to feel collectively responsible for their actions. There's certainly no shortage of talking heads who think it's our fault.

Vice-President Al Gore, in his role as the nation's mystic, said at a memorial service in Littleton, "Every one of us is responsible for all the children." If it takes a village to raise a child, in other words, then the village certainly failed these two young men and their victims.

There may be a kernel of truth, however, in Gore's wrongheaded observation that we're all somehow complicit in a great cultural malignancy. If you've bought your child one of the ultra-violent video games widely available anywhere in the U.S., you are conditioning him to view human destruction as entertainment.

If you don't monitor his television time, you're telling him it's permissible to take whatever action is necessary to get what he wants when he wants it regardless of the consequences. If you don't know what movies he's going to see, you're allowing him to view constant violence as a form of pornography.

The list goes on and on. It's enough to make well-meaning parents lose sleep. It should be enough to make Christian parents drop to their knees in search of an answer.

The answer, as always, is found in Jesus Christ.

It must have come as a shock to many people who witnessed one talking-head expert from a large, liberal northeast-U.S. university recently opine on network television:

The problem with young people today is that they are in spiritual crisis. They have never been taught to have faith in anything higher than themselves, so they have no spiritual background, no spiritual experience on which to draw when their anger overwhelms them. When that happens, they know no limits.

The perceptive professor didn't mention Jesus Christ, but we should be able to read between the lines. It shouldn't take another Columbine massacre to convince us there is nothing more needed in our culture — especially our youth culture — than Jesus.

Unfortunately, there is nothing more



abhorred by our culture than Jesus. That part hasn't changed since the Savior walked among us. Our part hasn't changed since the Savior walked among us, either (Matt. 28:16-20).

Let us be found faithful and Christlike in our battle to win back the heart and soul of this country and its young people. Make no mistake, however — it is a battle.

The ways of the world haven't worked, so isn't it time we tried the Way? It's what the world needs now. Let's get busy.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Trained to kill

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor



American children are being trained to kill. So says David Grossman of Jonesboro, Ark., in an August 10, 1998 article in Christianity Today magazine.

Grossman is a retired army psychologist who coined the phrase "killology," the term assigned to the study of how to change men into killers.

Studies show that as far back as the Civil War, soldiers have been more willing to place themselves in harm's way than they are to inflict fatal harm on others. Grossman says that following World War II, an army study revealed that only 15-20% of riflemen would shoot to kill in battlefield situations.

The army set about to fix this problem, and in the process discovered how to make a man into a killer. Grossman says it involves four steps:

◆ **Desensitization to violence**, so the soldier feels no hesitation to inflict harm on another person.

◆ **Classical conditioning**, which is the process of making a subconscious connection between violence and pleasure.

◆ **Operate conditioning**, to develop the reflexes to shoot when a threat appears.

◆ **Role modeling**, placing before the soldier heroes who are killers on the battlefield.

Grossman says he sees all four of these steps as prevalent in today's youth culture:

◆ **Desensitization to violence**: The plethora of media violence and violent video/computer games has desensitized a generation to the pain of violence. Children often cheer at violent acts on the screen.

◆ **Classical conditioning**: Children watch movies and TV programs, and play video/computer games in the presence of their friends or dates, while enjoying their favorite refreshments. This creates a subconscious connection between violence and pleasure.

◆ **Operate conditioning**: Many video/computer games, especially the ones played by boys, involve the act of shooting at things, people, or "beings." They develop quick shooting reflexes by spending hour after hour shooting.

◆ **Role modeling**: In the entertainment media, killers are glorified as heroes. At a very early age, children are given role models who kill.

Grossman's conclusion is

that we are reaping what we have sown in modern society. Our children are trained to kill.

Perhaps Grossman is exaggerating a bit in saying our children are trained killers, but in light of events these past two years, it does give pause to thought. What does it do to a child who is bombarded with violence from age three onward?

I read a story about a Kansas farmer whose two boys became career navy men. A visiting preacher, who was a college professor, was staying on his farm. The farmer asked if he had any idea how two boys raised hundreds of miles from any sizable body of water could grow up to be navy men.

The professor asked to see the boys' room. He was led to a small room with twin beds and a window looking out over the fields. On the wall was a reproduction of a ship at sea. The professor asked if he could sleep in that room. The farmer said that was fine.

The next morning the professor said he thought he knew why the boys had gone to sea.

"How long has that painting been in the boys' room?" he asked the farmer.

"Since before they were even born," the farmer answered.

"The first thing you notice when you walk into that room is that painting," the preacher/college professor said.

"When you go to bed, it's the last thing you see, and when you get up in the morning, it's the first thing you see."

"What do you think it would do to a couple of boys who grew up in a room where the first thing they see every morning, the first thing they see every afternoon when they get in from school, and the last thing they see every night before they go to bed, is the sea?"

The farmer scratched his chin and shook his head. "I guess they go to sea," he said.

What does it do to children who see and experience violence every morning when they get up, every day when they get home from school, and every night before they go to bed?

We must not forget this spine-chilling warning from the Word: "God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder . . ." (Rom. 1:28, 29 NAS)

All-State Youth Choir to perform at music meeting

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will be June 6-8 at First Church, Nashville, Tenn.

Among the featured musical groups during the conference: the Mississippi All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra, Carson-Newman College's a capella choir; Nashville Children's Choir; Arkansas Jubilation Brass; Georgia Jubalheirs; and the Tennessee Baptist Chorale.

A forum to discuss the 750-member conference's future will be at 9:30 a.m. on June 8, the organization's president, Rob Hewell, a member of the leadership and worship team

with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, has announced.

The conference's 17-member council has "spent four years in earnest discussion about the mission and future of the SBCMC," Hewell wrote in the conference's newsletter. "We've surveyed the membership, and have proposed and accomplished some changes. We now believe it is time to take that discussion to the conference in session."

For the first time this year, a couple will receive the conference's Hines Sims Award for distinguished service to the field of church music — A.L. "Pete" and JoAnn Butler.

Members of the music faculty

at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., for 16 years, Butler is professor of church music and his wife is associate professor. Previously, Butler was minister of music at First Church, Ada, Okla., for 23 years, while his wife was children's choir coordinator and an organist. She also taught music education 15 years at East Central State University, Ada. Butler has four hymn tunes in the current Baptist Hymnal. JoAnn Butler, meanwhile, has written more than 160 articles on children's music for publications of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The conference-commis-

sioned anthem and worship chorus will be premiered. The new anthem, "Make Music," is by Jane Martin and R.G. Huff.

Further information about the conference can be found at the Internet website, www.sbcmc.org, or by writing to Louis Ball/SBCMC, Carson-Newman College, Box 71934, Jefferson City, TN 37760.

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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SBC meeting changes to two-day format

ATLANTA (BP) — An abbreviated two-day session of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), approved by a messenger vote last year, is set for June 15-16 in Atlanta's Georgia Dome with the theme "His Tears ... Our Task!" (See schedule, page six.)

For a number of years, the annual meeting has been two and a half days, starting Tuesday morning and finishing Thursday at noon. However, as early as 20 years ago, the convention met for three full days and 50 years ago the annual meeting started Wednesday morning and finished with an evangelistic service Sunday night. The new schedule still allows for Wednesday afternoon free for messengers, with SBC seminaries' alumni and other groups planning meetings during that period.

An SBC official predicted 14,000 messengers would register for the 142nd session of the SBC in its 154-year history.

Messengers will hear preaching, singing, and reports from SBC entities and vote on a number of items, including recommendations not to change the name of the convention and not to move the convention next year from Orlando, Fla.

Also on the agenda is a testimony by Reggie White, professional football player, seen as a future National Football League Hall of Fame member, from Knoxville, Tenn. White has raised some controversy with public remarks considered upholding traditional family values and calling the homosexual lifestyle not biblical. The black minister is pastor of a church in Knoxville which was destroyed in a fire officials said was caused by arson.

An election for SBC president will also be held, although tradition holds that a president serving in his first year is given a second one-year term. Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., was elected last year in Salt Lake City to a one-year term as president. No opposition has surfaced to Patterson's re-election.

Messengers will be asked to approve a record \$159,583,743 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for SBC entities for 1999-2000. Nearly \$5 million over the current year's budget, the proposed budget will retain the same distribution percentages to 12 SBC entities.

The two-day schedule for the annual meeting will mean messengers wanting to introduce resolutions for consideration must do so before the start of the Tuesday afternoon session. Messengers who want to have resolutions considered are urged to send them to the Resolutions Committee before the annual meeting.

Messengers will vote on a recommenda-

tion not to change the name of the convention. The SBC's executive committee discussed two proposals offered at last year's annual meeting but decided in its February meeting there is "no compelling rationale" for a change and "is not justified when all factors are taken into account."

Also, the executive committee, acting on several referred motions from Salt Lake City last year to move the location of the 2000 session, will recommend not moving the annual meeting in 2000 from Orlando, Fla. The recommendation says messengers to the Orlando meeting will "meet the challenge presented by worldliness that the Southern Baptist Convention has met in other convention cities."

The recommendation also says "the faithfulness of Southern Baptists to Crossover Orlando (evangelistic efforts prior to the start of the SBC) and the refusal to patronize the Disney organization will be a profound testimony for the cause of Christ to Orlando, Florida, and the nation."

The recommendation also says "... the faithfulness of Southern Baptists in keeping contractual agreements will be a positive and effective testimony for the cause of Christ to the hotel and convention industry."

Orlando is the home of Disney World, thus the referred motions stem from the so-called boycott of The Disney Company endorsed by messengers to the 1997 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, challenging various "anti-family" and "anti-Christian" directions and specific practices at the entertainment conglomerate.

Another referral from the Salt Lake City meeting would add to the Baptist Faith and Message statement of Baptist beliefs, Article I, which includes a reference to Scripture's truth: "in every area of which it speaks." The executive committee declined to act on the referral following a recommendation of "no action be taken" from the Council of Seminary Presidents.

The two evenings of the annual meeting will feature missions presentations by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) on Tuesday and the International Mission Board (IMB) on Wednesday.

During the week prior to the SBC, an ambitious evangelistic project coordinated by NAMB, called "Crossover," will penetrate metro Atlanta. (See article, page seven.)

Then, a number of satellite meetings, such as the annual Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union meetings, will be held June 13-14 before the SBC meeting starts (Schedules to be published in issue of May 13.)

The registration area will be on the lower level, gate C of the Georgia Dome, said Lee Porter, just off International Avenue. Registration will open at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 13, and at 8 a.m. on the following Monday through Wednesday. It will close shortly after 9 p.m. each night.

According to SBC Bylaw 8, the church's clerk or moderator must sign the familiar messenger card, "the best credential," Porter said. The messenger card may be obtained from state convention offices, or in some states, the local association office.

Changing their community

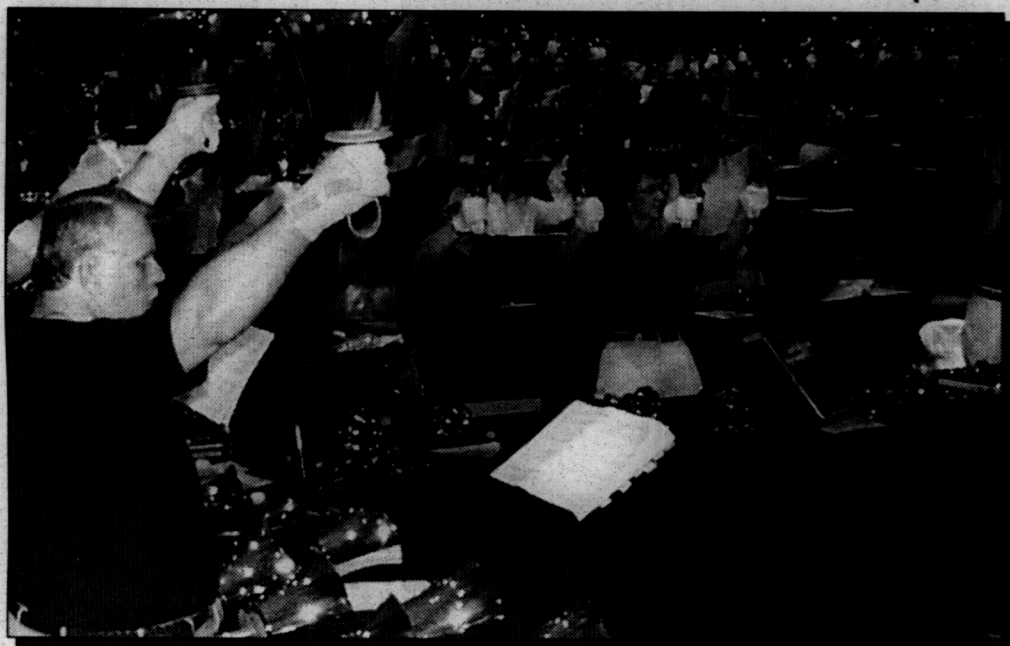


Youth of Metro Association, Jackson, attended a Spring Retreat at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian and then returned to paint houses in downtown Jackson. They also served meals or provided yard work at Stewpot Ministries, Gateway Rescue Mission, the Baptist Children's Village, and a battered women's shelter. A total of 198 young people participated in the retreat, entitled "Big Break," which was merged with a project known as Community Changers. Charles Nikolic of Metro Association worked with the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union to develop the Community Changers involvement. Participants included (from left) Andrea Epperson, Amanda Mullins, Brandi Averitt, and Amanda Berry, all members of Raymond Church, Raymond. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Handbell clinician savors 'joy' of ministry

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

When Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., purchased a set of handbells in 1972, and Christine D. Anderson was selected as one of the 11



RINGING PRAISES — Participants in the State Handbell Festival in Grenada lift their bells at the end of one of the mass handbell numbers. Photo by Carl M. White.

Casting call set for MBCB commercials

The church information support team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will hold open casting calls for the latest MBCB-produced statewide broadcast campaign, slated to go into production in late May.

The casting calls for the "Our Prayer" television and radio commercials will be held May 8 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the chapel of the Baptist Building, which is located at 515 Mississippi Street in downtown Jackson near the New Capitol.

Individuals chosen for the campaign must have flexible schedules and must be in the metro Jackson area for filming on June 18-19.

For more information, contact Tim Nicholas at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651; or Stacey Morrison at Godwin Group, (601) 360-9453.

adult choir members to begin the church's first handbell choir, no one realized what the Lord was starting.

Twenty-seven years later, Anderson is a world-renowned solo handbell artist, having played before audiences from the Grand Ole' Opry House in Nashville to the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria.

Anderson was in Mississippi April 23-24 as the clinician for the State Handbell Festival at the Holmes Community College Forum in Grenada — one of two handbell festivals in the state this spring, according to Jerry Talley, minister of music at Oak Forest Church, Jackson, and handbell consultant with the church music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). The Grenada festival involved over 200 ringers from 20 churches.

"These clinics grow ringers. It helps

weaker players to see and hear their part being played by others. Also, it is a wonderful time of inspiration," Talley said.

There was nothing more inspirational than watching Christine Anderson in action, ringing 45 bells in a 30-minute solo performance that is a combination of ballet, dexterity, and beautiful music.

"How do you explain something that gives you joy?" Anderson said when asked what she loves most about handbells.

"I lose myself in it, in the words and sounds. It is a form of worship," she said.

After ringing a few years with the Coral Ridge choir, Anderson saw her first solo performance in 1980. "I was astonished. I didn't know handbell ringing was anything but a group sport," she said.

Anderson returned to school to finish a music degree in voice. However, her voice teacher told her she could not do a senior recital because she was not good enough, and that she should think about a research project instead.

"What a relief," she said. "That was one door I didn't mind closing. I chose the topic 'The History and Practice of the English Handbell,' did extensive research, and produced a video called 'Voices in Bronze.'"

Experimenting in private, Anderson discovered her gift at age 30 — solo ringing. To support her playing, she became an area representative for a handbell manufacturing company.

Invitations came to ring and lead in clinics. Because of the limited amount of music available at the time, Anderson began writing and arranging her own material.

Her ringing was

something she loved, but it was not really a ministry. That changed in 1983.

"At one point on an airplane to South Carolina, I realized I had circumvented God's plan for my life. It was like Peter's experience with Jesus — God was giving me a second chance.

"I looked out the window at a cloud and I realized that God was giving me this second chance, and that everything I needed God had placed in my hand. From that point on, ringing handbells became a ministry," Anderson said.

Anderson travels extensively, leading clinics and performing. She writes and arranges handbell music, with over 70 titles in print.

For information on the Anderson's handbell ministry, visit her web site at www.voicesinbronze.com.

For information on state handbell festivals and other handbell events, contact Talley at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Anderson

FOOD FOR JESUS

Occasionally in an interview you will hear someone asked, "If you can choose one person, one person alive today or even a historical figure with whom you could sit down and have a meal and enjoy conversation and be blessed by their company, who would you choose? Some sports figure, or world leader, or possibly some great military genius — who would you choose?"

What if you had the opportunity to fix a meal and sit down to eat with Jesus? In a beautiful way, some of you have been feeding him and you did not realize it, but now you have opportunity to do it again.

Jesus said, you saw me hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink. The people answered and said, we don't know when that happened, we have not seen you hungry or thirsty, and the Lord said, when you have done it unto the least, you have done it unto me.

Back in the summer of 1998 a huge and powerful hurricane devastated Honduras and neighboring countries in Central America. Over a million people were left without a home



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

and with nothing to eat, drink, or wear. Out of the graciousness of Mississippi Baptists and because of our relationship with the people in Honduras resulting from our partnership in missions, we were able to collect and send a million pounds of food which saved lives, kept families together, and brought hundreds of thousands of people to a new understanding of how much we really do care for them in Jesus' name.

The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention asked if we would continue our partnership with Honduras for a couple more years so that we might continue to help in this devastated country and provide help and hope for a destitute people. We not only agreed in principle,

Mississippians agreed practically and have sent continuing help to build homes, churches, and lives.

The stories coming out of Honduras have ranged from miraculous to just absolutely glorious! We have been a part, not of some governmental handout program, but of a God-given opportunity to share our Lord. Our channel of relief is our missionaries, and our gifts of food have been laced with love and good news of a Savior.

Now your help is desperately needed again! The food supplies are running low and will run out. We tend to think because the news releases of the disaster are no longer shown, there is no longer a problem. Such is not the case.

Baptists across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama,

have been requested to help in this effort. The goal is to gather 250,000 pounds of dried foods per state. Requests for food boxes will be going out to the state the first week in May. The collection dates will be June 18 & 19. There will be collection points at:

- ◆ First Church, Sardis.
- ◆ Old Columbus Marble Works building, Columbus.
- ◆ The Baptist Building, Jackson.
- ◆ New Fred's Dollar Store building, Hattiesburg.

Additional details will follow in the May 13 issue of The Baptist Record.

Each church, WMU, and Men's Ministry can do something to help this great need.

A friend of mine once told me that in his opinion a flood was the worst of all natural disasters. His reasoning was that the day after a flood, the weather was usually clear and in the bright sunshine those who were not directly affected would just go on thinking life was great and ignoring the devastation that had come to others.

We can, we must, and we will help!

Balkan effort hindered by missiles, attacks

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Baptist church's storage facility for humanitarian aid in Nis, Serbia, has been destroyed by a missile, Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), reported in an April 8 statement on "The Missiological Implications of the Kosovo War for the Baptist Witness in Eastern Europe."

In addition to the Baptist facility which contained Christian literature, food, clothing, and furniture, in a city of 250,000-plus people 125 miles southeast of Belgrade, Lotz cited several other reports relating to Baptists in Eastern Europe since the United States and its NATO allies began bombing Yugoslavia in late March in an attempt to stop Serbian "ethnic cleansing" of ethnic Albanians from the province of Kosovo.

"As Baptist Christians worldwide," Lotz said, "we need to remind ourselves of certain principles that will prevent us from becoming so involved in the drums of war that we become ineffective agents for Christ and his Kingdom."

Lotz joined an "ecumenical appeal" by various religious leaders for a cessation of the bombing during the Easter season, but his April 8 statement made no specific call for a NATO cease fire.

The other reports cited by Lotz relating to Baptists in Eastern Europe:

♦ "There have been television interviews with students from Russia who have stated very strongly, 'Your NATO bombing will bring the communists back to power in our December elections. They will use NATO bombing to further their communist goals of reclaiming power,'" Lotz said.

♦ "An American missionary reports that Russian Baptists asked, 'What gives the U.S. the right to bomb Serbia, a sovereign state? Do you think you also have the right to intervene in Chechnya also?'"

"The Orthodox Church is particularly strong in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece," Lotz said. "Their religious and cultural history unites them over many centuries. These people see the war in Serbia and Kosovo as a religious war. The tragic slaughter of innocent people, the refugees, the evil dictatorship is all for-

gotten or not known. All that is known and impressed in the minds of these people is that their Slavic brothers and sisters are being attacked."

Among the principles cited by Lotz:

♦ Jesus' kingdom "is not of this world," Lotz wrote. "Certainly this does not mean that we escape from the world as a sectarian movement and not become involved in societal issues. On the contrary, Christians must be involved in the life and death issues of one's country. But ultimate allegiance must be above one's country. Ultimate allegiance must be to Christ and His Kingdom."

♦ "When culture triumphs over the Gospel, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus becomes a tool for nationalism and racist ideas. Therefore, we must constantly remind ourselves who and whose we are as Christians. It is not to our culture, with all its greatness or failings, that we point. But we must point to Christ," Lotz said.

♦ "To communicate the Gospel of Christ in a foreign culture, one must necessarily be aware of the history, culture, religious sensitivities, and all that makes up a particular civilization, or world-view of a nation or tribe. ... If a Christian witness does not take seriously the context of preaching the Gospel in a particular culture, then we should not be surprised if there is no response," Lotz said.

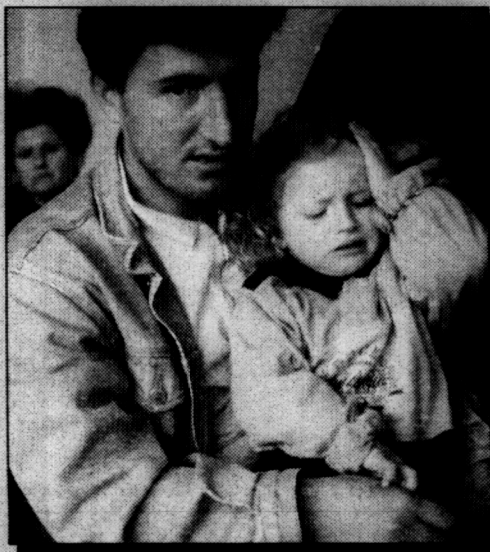
♦ A Christian missionary, a witness to Christ, must be able to

show the people to whom he is preaching that he is in solidarity with their pain and sorrow. ... The incarnation is God's solidarity with sinful humanity: "And the word became a human being!" (John 1:14) Therefore, we need to understand our brothers and sisters living in another culture. We need to be sensitive to their pain, even if we disagree with their government and their leadership."

♦ Citing Psalm 11 to answer the question, "... how do we act during wartime?" Lotz said, "We must pray. We must confess our sins. We must do righteous deeds. It is for that reason that the BWA has called upon Baptists worldwide to pray for peace. We call upon each nation and culture to examine its actions and its soul. And finally we call upon our brothers and sisters in the war-torn area and in peaceful areas 'to do righteous deeds.'"

Relief volunteers needed in Albania

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist volunteers will be needed in Albania in weeks ahead, but missionaries there still are assessing needs and establishing a basic food program, according to Southern Baptist missionary Bill Steele.



WAITING — Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province have been forced to flee to neighboring countries. Many — like these — left with only the clothes on their backs.

"We're thinking we may need some food preparation teams and many other kinds of volunteers," Steele said, "but it's too soon right now to say what those will be." An assessment team arrived in Albania April 20 to help design an International Mission Board response to the crisis.

Unfortunately, some volunteers who were lined up for projects in Sarajevo, Bosnia, this summer have canceled, Steele said.

Many project organizers in the United States apparently are worried the turmoil in Yugoslavia will create danger in neighboring Bosnia.

"The city of Sarajevo has been basically calm and unaffected by the Yugoslavian conflict," Steele said. "We understand the reluctance some Southern Baptists would have in coming there, but we're hoping to get our program back on track soon."

One Southern Baptist worker in Albania noted the paradox that while some volunteer teams are canceling plans for peaceful Bosnia, others are signing up to work near the front lines of the confrontation in Kosovo.

Southern Baptists interested in volunteer opportunities in Sarajevo or Albania may contact the Volunteers in Mission Department at (800) 888-8657 or e-mail michael.hester@imb.org.

Yugoslav Christians fear anti-American retaliation

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (ABP) — A Christian church in Yugoslavia was reportedly attacked by neighbors who associated it with U.S. President Bill Clinton, who is Baptist.

Local people threw stones at the Christian Evangelism Center in Backi Petrovac, reported Dane Vidovic, a Baptist who lives in Belgrade. While anti-American sentiment has fueled hostility against the church and its kindergarten, so far there have been no physical attacks, Vidovic told European Baptist Press Service.

Some Yugoslav evangelicals have been predicting they would suffer from being identified by countrymen as having ties with the West.

"A general feeling among the evangelical community is that evangelical Christians and organizations in the West are not vocal enough against NATO aggression," said Vidovic, an elder at First Baptist Church in Belgrade.

"Except the personal encouragement and promises for prayers, there (is) no real public condemnation against the aggression," he said. "On the contrary, some individual evangelical leaders have supported and justified the aggression."

Meanwhile, Texas Baptist Men, a ministry associated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, announced it is sending a dozen relief volunteers to Albania to purify water, distribute food, and provide medical supplies for Kosovo refugees.

Working in cooperation with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, the Texas volunteers left Dallas on April 14 to spend two weeks in Albania, said Jim Furgerson, executive director of Texas Baptist Men.

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Goodrum, Vicksburg: May 2-5; Sunday, 11a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Smith, Duncan, evangelist; Tom Simmons Jr., pastor.

Richmond, Tupelo: May 9-12; 7 p.m. nightly; Kenny Digby, evangelist; Glen Reeder, Ripley, music; Sean Tutor Sr., pastor.

Southern Baptist Convention

ANNUAL MEETING

June 15-16, 1999 ♦ Georgia Dome ♦ Atlanta, Georgia

TUESDAY MORNING — JUNE 15

- 8:00 Inspirational Music
- 8:15 Congregational Praise/Worship
- 8:20 Call to Order
- Registration Report and Constitution of the Convention
- 8:30 Prayer
- 8:35 Committee on Order of Business (First Report)
- 8:40 Welcome
- 8:45 Response
- 8:50 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:00 Theme Interpretation
- 9:15 Local Arrangements Committee Presentation
- 9:20 Crossover Atlanta Report
- 9:25 Introduction of Motions and Resolutions (*All resolutions must be presented before today's afternoon session.*)
- 9:45 Committee on Nominations Report
- 9:55 Executive Committee Report (Part 1)
- 10:45 Congregational Praise/Worship
- 10:50 Worship in Music
- 10:55 President's Address
- 11:35 Benediction

TUESDAY AFTERNOON — JUNE 15

- 1:00 Inspirational Music
- 1:10 Prayer
- 1:15 Business — Committee on Order of Business (*Second Report*); Introduction of Motions, Reporting Proposed Resolutions
- 1:30 Executive Committee Report (Part 2)
- 2:10 Election of Officers (*First*)
- 2:25 LifeWay Christian Resources Report
- 2:35 LifeWay Christian Resources Presentation

- 3:10 YouthLink 2000 Presentation
- 3:15 Congregational Praise/Worship
- 3:20 Seminary Report
- 3:30 Seminary Presentations
- 4:20 Election of Officers (*Second*)
- 4:35 Introduction of New Motions (*Last Opportunity*); Reporting Proposed Resolutions
- 5:00 Benediction

TUESDAY EVENING — JUNE 15

- 6:45 Concert of Praise
- 7:00 Congregational Praise/Worship
- 7:05 Prayer
- 7:10 Election of Officers (*Third*)
- 7:20 Theme Interpretation
- 7:35 Business — Committee on Order of Business (*Third Report*)
- 7:45 Previously Scheduled Business, Reporting Proposed Resolutions
- 8:10 Congregational Praise/Worship
- 8:15 North American Mission Board Report
- 8:25 North American Mission Board Presentation
- 9:15 Benediction

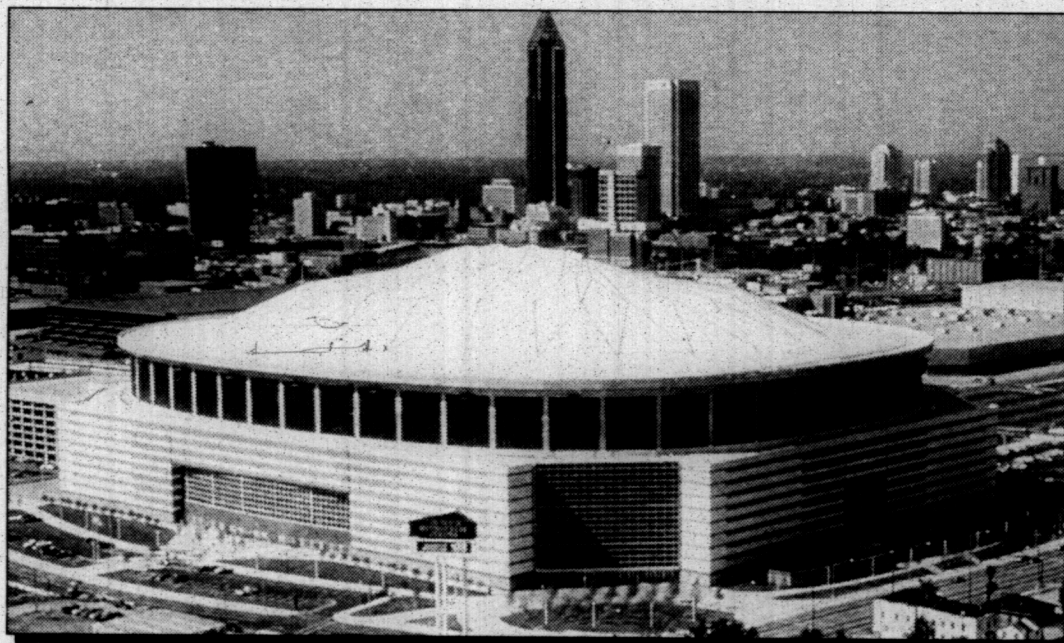
WEDNESDAY MORNING — JUNE 16

- 8:00 Concert of Praise
- 8:10 Congregational Praise/Worship
- 8:15 Prayer
- 8:20 Theme Interpretation
- 8:35 Woman's Missionary Union Report
- 8:45 Election of Officers (*Fourth*)
- 8:55 Business — Committee on Order of Business (*Fourth*)
- 9:15 Previously Scheduled Business
- 9:45 Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission Report
- 10:05 Committee on Resolutions (*First Report*)
- 10:35 Messenger Information Survey
- 10:40 Evangelizing International Cities
- 10:55 Election of Officers (*Fifth*)
- 11:05 Committee on Committees Report
- 11:15 Annuity Board Report
- 11:30 Congregational Praise/Worship
- 11:40 Convention Message
- 12:15 Benediction

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

WEDNESDAY EVENING — JUNE 16

- 6:00 Concert of Praise
- 6:10 Prayer
- 6:15 Business — Committee on Order of Business (*Fifth Report*)
- 6:25 Testimony
- 6:40 Previously Scheduled Business
- 6:55 Theme Interpretation
- 7:10 Committee on Resolutions (*Final Report*)
- 7:40 Recognition of Former SBC Presidents
- 7:50 Presentation of Outgoing Officers
- 7:55 Presentation of New Officers
- 8:00 Concert of Praise
- 8:10 International Mission Board Report
- 8:20 International Mission Board Presentation
- 9:10 Benediction



Southern Baptist evangelists to organize Olympic Park events

ATLANTA (BP) — A contemporary Christian concert and Sunday morning worship — both in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park — are being organized by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE) in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

Contemporary Christian groups Smalltown Poets and Third Day will be featured in a free-admission "Getting' Free" concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 12, in the park.

A 9:15 a.m. Sunday worship service in the park will feature preaching by John Phillips, a Bible teacher from Wilmington, N.C., and Glenn Sheppard, an evangelist from Conyers, Ga., along with music by the Stone Brothers and the worship team from Fortified Hills Church, Smyrna, Ga.

Also assisting in the two events is the North American Mission Board's evangelism department.

A first-ever Sunday morning worship at last year's Southern Baptist Convention sponsored by the evangelists' conference "was attended by over 3,000, and many have requested that we offer another Sunday morning service for those who will be in downtown Atlanta on Sunday morning, June 13," said Jerry Drace, the conference's president and an evangelist based in Humboldt, Tenn.

"The contemporary Christian

concert is another first and is aimed at reaching teenagers throughout the Atlanta area," Drace said. "There will be a presentation of the gospel at the conclusion of the concert with a call for decision."

A third outreach, "Praise in the Park," will be at 10 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, in Olympic Park featuring Anthony Burger, pianist for Bill Gaither Homecoming gatherings, along with Southern Baptist music evangelists.

The annual business meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will be at 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 15, in Room W262 on level 2 of the Georgia World Congress Center.

The evangelists' group will vote on implementing accountability standards and creating an accountability council.

During the meeting, Drace

will give an update of COSBE's new emergency Samaritan's Fund. An estimated 15,000 letters have been mailed to pastors seeking their support for the fund to help evangelists and their families in times of crisis, such as a home fire or severe illness.

Drace can be contacted at (901) 784-0087.

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Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 6, 1999

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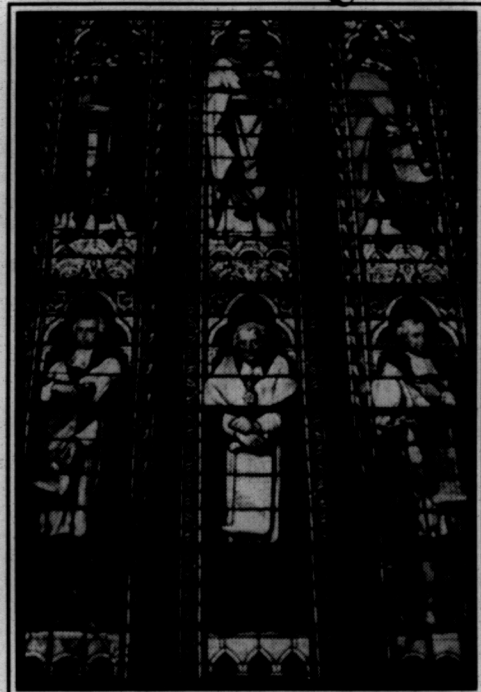
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May 10-11, 1999

Temple Baptist Church

Hattiesburg

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Conference/Seminar Leader



Paul Koonce

Minister of Music, Temple Baptist Church



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Pastor, Temple Baptist Church
President, Mississippi Baptist Convention

- **Hardy Denham**, Retired Director, Church Minister Relations, WCC
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Preaching and Worship Conference
Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg • May 10-11, 1999

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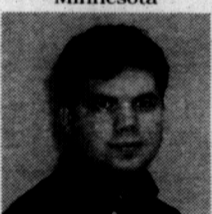
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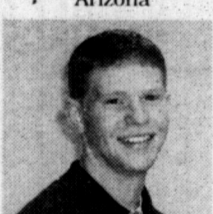
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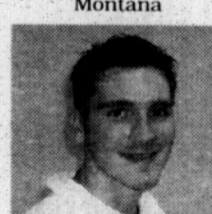
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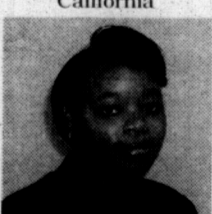
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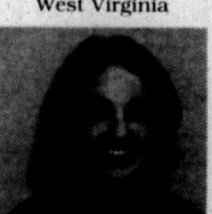
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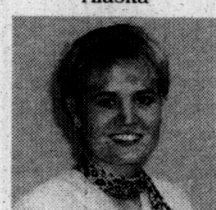
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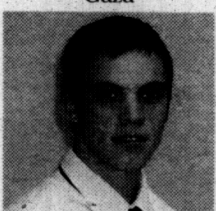
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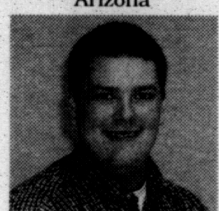
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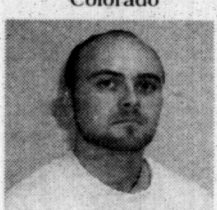
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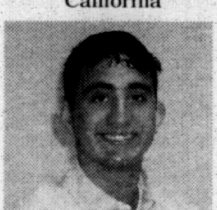
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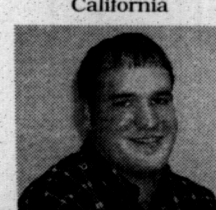
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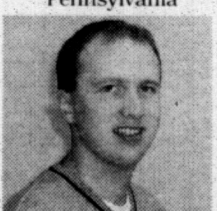
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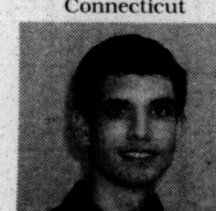
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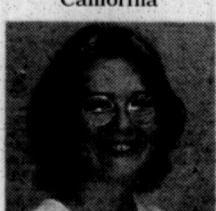
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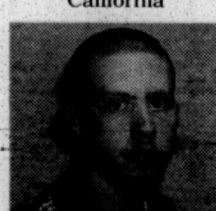
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*"Every morning, lean thine arms awhile upon the window sill of Heaven.
And gaze upon the Lord...
Then, with that vision in thy heart, Turn strong to meet the day."
Unknown*

Mother's Day - Hannah was a woman who was mighty in spirit. She trusted God for what seemed to be impossible, and He delivered a mighty miracle. Her heart was unashamedly set on the ways of the Lord - something she was not afraid to pass on to her son, Samuel.

Baptist Radio and Television Sunday (DBS emphasis), Mary Branson, who is marketing director for the North American Mission Board, asks prayer for "On Mission 99" at Ridgecrest Conference Center June 26-July 2. Pray that lives will be changed and that church leaders will respond to God's call to participate.

For the Preaching/Worship Conference, Temple BC, Hattiesburg (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries). Please pray for the work of translating portions of the Bible into the Beja language, Ta-Bedawie, in Sudan.

For the I Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Discipleship & Family Ministry). For Associational Missions Week (North American Mission Board Emphasis)

Pray for the new group of believers in Nuevo Porvenir, a Mam village in Guatemala. This little group is the only evangelical witness in their town. Pray that they will be salt and light to their whole area.

Missionary Dennis Folds, serving as interim pastor of Tokyo Baptist Church, requests prayer for a young man from Iran who recently accepted Christ. Fellow Iranians are now exerting a great deal of pressure, as well as threatening physical violence, if he does not renounce Christ and return to his Muslim beliefs. Pray for his protection, wisdom and courage.

Praise God for a Samburu Christian in Kenya who started a 'preaching point' in his own village about a month ago. He has already witnessed to friends in two other villages, where he has also started worship services. Pray for leaders in these two new places.

In late March, the vice-president of Paraguay was assassinated. Several days of street rioting took place before the president resigned and a new president was sworn in. Continue to pray for the people of Paraguay, that they might realize that what they need is not a quick political fix, but a radical change of heart and mind and life.

Robert Rodriguez is a Messenger of the Word, pastoring Sunset Lane Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR, a multi-cultural congregation that ministers to African-Americans, Anglos, and Hispanics. Pray that God will unite these three groups.

For the II Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Discipleship & Family Ministry). For both Serbians and Kosovo-Albanians, this is a time of distress. Please stand in the gap and intercede for God's light to break through in this region of Europe.

Pray for a Balinese man in Indonesia who turned to Jesus in March. His faith in Christ is very sincere, and he has already expressed his burden that his family come to know the Savior. Pray for the Lord's protection, as he believes evil spirits are harassing him through bad dreams, and pray that the Lord will provide a good job for him soon.

In March, missionary Dianne Teafattler, who serves in Dar es Salaam, requested prayer for rain, as Tanzania was going through a major drought. Now she writes: "Praise God for the rain that He has sent. We have heard reports of rain in many parts of Tanzania, which has helped the people's crops to grow. Thank you for praying."

New missionaries Jim and Janna Griffin arrived in San Jose, Costa Rica, in April to begin language school, and ISC workers Kerry and Mauri Johnson arrived in Mexico to serve in the Ecatepec area of Mexico City. Pray for both of these families as they make adjustments to a new country, culture, and language.

For the Children and Conversion Conference, FBC, Madison (Witness Team). Pray that the people of Chengdu, China, will come to know Christ as Lord and Savior through an indigenous church-planting movement. Give thanks to God that a worker reports that three new churches have been started in the area where she lives.

State Senior Adult Retreats, "Joyful Journey of Seniors"

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (228-452-7261) (May use VISA Card)

Registration 1:30 p.m.	May 17-19	May 20-22	May 24-28
	\$83	\$83	\$150
Preacher	J. Garland McKee Clinton	Clifton Perkins Clinton	J. Ferris Jordan Baton Rouge
Choir	First Baptist Church Jackson	First Baptist Church Laurel	North Oxford BC Oxford
Music	Dennis Daniels Jackson	Jimmy Little Laurel	Allen Harris Oxford
Organist	Pauline Moore Kosciusko	Ed Sudduth McComb	Dot Pray MBCB
Pianist	June McKee Clinton	Irene Martin Harperville	Irene Martin Harperville
Morning Watch	Gordon Sansing, Sr. Meridian	Joe Stovall, Jr. Raymond	Marjean Patterson Clinton
Conference	May 17-19	May 20-22	May 24-28
Grandparenting Is Not Like It Use To Be	Talmadge Smith Brookhaven	Ronney Joe Webb Laurel	Charles Stubblefield Ecu
Making Retirement Special	W. Levon Moore Kosciusko	Fred Tarpley, Sr. Madison	Horace Kerr Brandon
Heaven, Your Real Home	Jim Yates Yazoo City	Kermit McGregor Mendenhall	Barry Worrell Grenada
Prayer Life	Jan Cossitt Clinton	Clyde Little Bay Springs	Jan Halford Jackson
Grief/Suffering	Dennis Daniels Jackson	Farley Earnest Brandon	Frank Bishop Seminary
Joyful Heart	M.C. Johnson Clarksdale	Mickey Bounds Vicksburg	Arlis Nichols Enterprise
Crafts	James & Mattie Ray Ripley	James & Mattie Ray Ripley	James & Mattie Ray Ripley
HIS-tory in Hymns	Irene Martin Harperville	Bob Hatzfeld Greenwood	Buddy McElroy Meridian
Second Half of Marriage	Farrell & Joann Blankenship MBCB	Mose & Kathleen Dangerfield Clinton	James & Cissa Richardson Madison
Leadership	Dennis Daniels Jackson (Wednesday)	Farley Earnest Brandon (Saturday)	Dallas Roscoe Tennessee
Departure	Noon	Noon	10 a.m.

Workshops for May 24-28

Wednesday: Women's Ministry - Cissa Richardson, Madison, Men's Ministry - Paul Harrell, MBCB

Thursday: Genealogy, Grandparent Brag Bag, Crafts, Health Issues, Retirement/Estate Management, etc.
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Take a moment to send a card
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of our missionaries!

3-86
MR. JOEL MARTIN
Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: Tom & Cynthia, Strategy

3-86
MISS LAUREN MCCALL
P.O. Box 5864, Tanga, TANZANIA
Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture

18-83
MR. ROSS KYZAR
c/o UECB Russia, International Post Office, P.O. Box 171
Moscow, 101000 RUSSIA
Parents: Russell & Melinda, Literature & Distribution/Promo.

20-81
MISS DONNIS GREEN
Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Parents: Algie & Emily, General Evangelism

23-77
MR. MICHAEL PANTER
William Carey Campus, Box 554, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Parents: Danny & Elizabeth, Associate to the Area Coordinator
SERVE IN EASTERN EUROPE

24-97
MR. LUCAS BRASWELL
c/o William Sellers, 16 Crosswoods Road, Brandon, MS 39042
Parents: Larry & Alicia, Outreach Evangelism, SERVE IN BRAZIL

26-89
MR. WRAY BRASWELL
Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism

28-89
MISS CHARISSA FORTENBERRY
P.O. Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA
Parents: Robert & Margaret

30-82
Mr. Kyle Martin
Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: Tom & Cynthia, Strategy



HOUSE TOPS

Crossover Metro Atlanta to precede annual meeting

ATLANTA (BP)—One of Southern Baptists' strongest, if recent, traditions surrounding their annual meeting has been Crossover — a short-term evangelistic blitz allowing convention messengers to lead thousands to faith in Christ during their convention visit.

This year, Crossover organizers hope the June 6-19 impact will be stronger than ever — incorporating time-tested methods such as block parties, door-to-door visits and inner-city evangelism as well as such innovative approaches as a citywide family celebration and youth concert in Centennial Olympic Park. Because Crossover is a part of the five-month Arms Around Atlanta evangelism and church-starting effort, the overall impact promises to be that much greater.

Crossover events are planned throughout the metro area, from the suburbs to the inner city. The bulk of the activities will occur on June 12, the Saturday before the convention, but other efforts — including preliminary follow-up with those who respond —

will be held the week before and the week after.

A part of the effort again this year will be a Prayerover event on June 11, in which teams of prayer warriors will walk through targeted areas praying for the people and the decisions to be made.

As in past years, the approach has been to offer local associations and churches a menu of possible evangelistic projects from which to choose for their area, noted Don Smith, an associate in event evangelism for the North American Mission Board and coordinator for Crossover.

Among the most popular and effective activities have been neighborhood block parties, where an atmosphere of fun and food in local parks creates opportunities for volunteers to share their faith, and door-to-door visits, which provide a dual opportunity for assessing community needs and offering a gospel witness.

Inner City Evangelism (ICE), which has provided a significant portion of

decisions registered during Crossover events the past several years, also will be central to the effort. A special ICE team of trained witnesses, in cooperation with local churches, will both train

others and witness in some of the most depressed neighborhoods in the city.

For more information, contact Smith at (770) 410-6306 or via e-mail at dsmith@namb.net.

Southern Baptist WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 13-14 ♦ ATLANTA, GA.

Schedule to be published next week.

Southern Baptist PASTORS' CONFERENCE

JUNE 13-14 * ATLANTA, GA.

Schedule to be published next week.

'Arms Around Atlanta' to have lasting impact on Ga. city

ATLANTA (BP)—"Have you ever tried to hug your city?"

That's the concept organizers of Southern Baptists' largest citywide evangelism and church-planting initiative would like to convey over the next five months.

The effort is called "Arms Around Atlanta," and the idea is to create an extended and lasting impact through the combined efforts of volunteers both locally and across the country.

"Arms Around Atlanta will give us an opportunity to not just meet and eat in Atlanta but to leave a lasting touch of love," said Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), which is co-sponsoring the effort with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

"We have plans already to plant 24 new churches. We will also touch the lives of many who need a caring touch during these months. All we need now are Baptists who care to come and help us."

Arms Around Atlanta will include not only direct evangelism, but also ministry events such as a Habitat for Humanity

home-building project and free medical clinics sponsored through the Georgia Baptist Health Care System.

leadership development for the Georgia Baptist Convention and co-leader of the team coordinating the emphasis.



Arms Around Atlanta

"So it's not just one method of evangelism. It's a multifaceted approach that we're taking," said Lee Ross, specialist in

Projects for the April through August effort fall under seven key areas:

- Prayer. Thousands of individuals are being equipped as daily prayer warriors, supplied with prayer calendars and weekly updates. Others will participate in prayer walks throughout the metro area.
- Event evangelism. Block

parties, personality-driven events, sports clinics, revivals, and other events will be held throughout the five-month period. One of the largest events was a baseball clinic which was held May 1 at Roswell High School in suburban Atlanta. The clinic featured several current and former Major League Baseball players and included instruction in specific baseball skills as well as "life skills" — the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Ministry evangelism. Includes participation in Special Olympics, building a Habitat for Humanity home, medical clinics, community clean-ups, a ministry conference, and local church programs such as English as a Second Language.

- Direct evangelism. Door-to-door canvassing throughout the area and Inner-City Evangelism teams.

- New churches. Twenty-four new churches will be started this year with significant seed funding through Arms Around Atlanta, and volunteer teams will assist with such projects as neighborhood surveys, Backyard Bible Clubs and block parties.

- Strengthening the local church. Efforts include an area-wide "High Attendance Day," as well as ministry consultants trained and available to help small church staffs.

- Media campaign. In an advertising blitz reminiscent of last year's Celebrate Jesus 2000 campaign in Salt Lake City, television, radio, newspapers and billboards will bolster the efforts of churches and volunteers. Free videos of the "Jesus" film will be offered to anyone who calls a toll-free number, and decision counselors also will be available to talk with callers about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The North American Mission Board also has scheduled two of its 51 week-long World Changers work projects in the city to coincide with the Arms Around Atlanta emphasis, one the week of the convention and the week after.

The Atlanta projects will allow hundreds of youth to provide volunteer labor for repair and rehabilitation projects on dilapidated housing — as well as an opportunity to share the spiritual motives behind their efforts with residents and others in the communities.

For comprehensive information on Arms Around Atlanta and volunteer opportunities, visit the www.armsaroundatlanta.org Internet website or contact coordinator Jane Barnes, (770) 936-5322 or jbarnes@gabaptist.org.

Individuals interested in participating in the June 6-19 Crossover events should contact Don Smith, an event evangelism associate for NAMB and Crossover coordinator, at (770) 410-6306 or dsmith@namb.net.

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1:00 p.m. - Strength Training Continued
3:15 p.m. - Stretch and Flexibility

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Massey and the Kings

Malcolm Massey (left), interim pastor at Southway Church, Brookhaven, baptized three generations. On Sunday, April 11, he baptized Aaron King (front). Massey served as pastor at Southway Church from 1969-80, at which time he baptized Aaron's grandfather Wayne King (center), and his father

Jeff King (right).

Northcrest Church, Meridian, will host a Bible Conference on May 13. Sessions will run from 9 a.m.-noon; 1:30-5 p.m.; and 7-9 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be served at 8:30 a.m. The conference will be kicked off by a harvest revival on Wednesday May 12 with Ferriar Morris, pastor of Imanuel Church, Corbin, Ky. Speakers will include Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala.; Kara Blackard, Corinth; Clark Stewart, Crystal Springs; and Danny Lanier, Little Rock. Johnny and Deanna Cabaniss, Nashville, Tenn., will be leading in worship

HOMEcomings

Ramah, McCall Creek: May 9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; Trent Bilbo, pastor, message; Jimmy Bilbo, Jackson, organist.

Clear Springs, Coffeeville: May 9; services, 10:45 a.m.; lunch served at noon; and singing in the afternoon; Lonnie Waller, pastor.

Wayside, Scobey: May 16; worship services will begin at 10:30 a.m., covered dish dinner on the grounds followed by a praise and worship service; William Smith, former pastor, now director of missions for Lee Association, speaker; Jerry Dale Patterson, pastor.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. For additional information call Arlington Heights Baptist Church, Pascagoula, MS (228) 769-2789 or (228) 769-6989.
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with music. Malcolm Lewis is pastor. For more information call (601) 482-3498.

University Church, Hattiesburg, will have its 40th anniversary/building dedication on May 23. Lunch will be served from 12 noon-12:45 p.m. and worship service will begin at 12:45 p.m. Call (601) 264-6908 for lunch reservations.

Mother and Daughter Banquet will be held at Martin Bluff Church, Gautier, on May 8 at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be Lee Pitts Spooner. For more information call the church at (601) 497-4395.

Hickory Ridge Church, Florence, celebrated its 100th years of receiving and sharing God's grace (1899-1999). "Just

before the dawning of the Twentieth Century, friends met to worship in the Hickory Ridge School House. A delegation from Steen's Creek Church (now First Church, Florence) assisted and encouraged the mission, and a new church was born in Rankin County in the Spring of 1899," said Dale Holloway, pastor. Homecoming celebrations were held on May 2.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I have allowed myself to be treated as a doormat by men. How can I teach my sons not to treat women as they have seen me treated? I know this is my own fault.

Acknowledging and correcting this problem now will bless your sons in the future. A good resource is the book entitled, *Boundaries*, by Henry Cloud and John Townsend. You must first establish limitations in your relationships with men, as a model for your sons to observe. Such a change will take time and won't be smooth, but the result will be worthwhile. Good relationships with a future will be strengthened, and relationships that aren't strengthened probably weren't right in the first place. Men in this situation also have a responsibility to respect the woman's desire to elevate the relationship. Fathers as well as mothers have a responsibility

to teach their children that no one deserves to be treated as a doormat, regardless of gender. Jesus lived a life of sacrificial love and servanthood, always thinking of the best for others and not himself. Can we do any less in our relationships? What a great gift to give to the next generation!

I have been an exotic dancer since I was 17 years old (five years ago). I don't like it but I can't make this much money anywhere else. How can I get out of this lifestyle?

The Holy Spirit is dealing with you and, convicting you about your lifestyle. Therefore, you can be assured that the Lord will help you when you call on him. The Bible says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19 NIV) Get involved in a local

Baptist church where you can receive the prayers and encouragement that are so essential to your Christian development at this time in your life. In the church are people with whom you can share your needs and prayer requests, and you will likely discover folks who are asking the same questions about the direction of their lives. A word to church members: There are people all around us like this woman, who want to make a change for the better. Help people like this struggling sister to see Christ in you, and steer them toward honorable work with employers who you know are seeking dependable employees. A decent job can help break the heavy chains that enslave them. Pray that God will open your eyes to such ministry opportunities and show you how to help new Christians who want to turn away from their past.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS

South McComb Church, McComb, licensed Josh Butrick to the gospel ministry as a youth minister on Feb. 21. Butrick will be serving as a BSU student summer missionary in Nevada this summer and will be attending Blue Mountain College in the fall. Pictured (from left) are Ted Bowlin, pastor, and Butrick.



Bowlin and Butrick

Associational Bible Drills were held April 11 at the Neshoba Association. Among the participants were these nine-year Bible Drill members, pictured, from left, Marshall Rivers of Neshoba Church, Nicole Nicholson of Linwood Church, Laney Ryals and Ben Peebles, both of Grace Church.



Marc Eichelberger, a native of LaGrange, Ga., has been named director of continuing education and conference planning for New Orleans Seminary. Eichelberger succeeds Charles Harvey Jr., who has been named associate director of the seminary's

Professional Doctoral Programs and assistant professor of Christian Education.



Eichelberger

Eichelberger is a New Orleans Seminary graduate, having completed the associate of divinity degree in 1984 and the master of divinity degree in 1987, as well as 22 hours of post-graduate work in psychology and counseling. He earned the bachelor of arts degree in Biblical Studies from William Carey College in 1986.



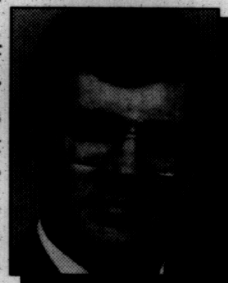
Jeff Box was licensed to preach by Riverport Church, Greenville. He preached in the evening worship hour on April 18 and was presented his license by Neal Cordell, pastor. A reception honoring him and his family was held after the service. He presently serves as youth director for Riverport Church, as well as RA leader.



Ludlow Church, Ludlow, recently elected and ordained Jim Denson Sr. and Jim Burns as new deacons. Pictured (from left) are M. L. Wallace, pastor; Denson; Burns; and Charles Latham, chairman of deacons.

STAFF CHANGES

Macedonia Church, Petal, has called Nelson Crozier as pastor effective April 25. A native of Pearl, Crozier received his education at Clarke College, Mississippi College, and William Carey College.

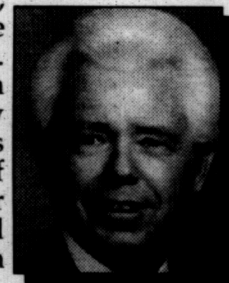


Crozier

Churches he previously served were Simmons Memorial, Flora; Zion Hill, Polkville; Fellowship, Taylorsville; West End, West Point; and First, Sharon.

Old Pearl Valley Church, Philadelphia, has called Mark McDonald as pastor. He began serving in April. He previously served at Hopewell Church, Scott Co.

Bob Sanderson has been called to Calvary Church, Waynesboro, as associate pastor. Sanderson formerly served as director of missions for Scott and Newton counties.

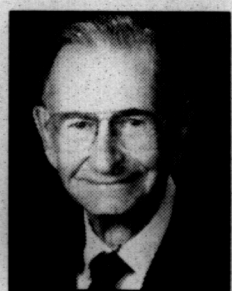


Sanderson

Calvary Church, Waynesboro, has called Trent Murphy as minister of youth and activities. He and his wife Karen have a three-year-old son, Benjamin.

Cary Church, Cary, has called Johnny R. Sanders as pastor effective March 7. Sanders is currently enrolled at Mississippi College.

Emmanuel Church, Biloxi, has called Ken Davis as pastor. He has pastored churches in Mississippi and Texas. Davis retired from the ministry after serving as an Army National Guard Chaplain during Operation Desert Storm.



NORRIS L. STAMPLEY, a Trustee with a Heart for Missions

Many Mississippi Baptists have a heart for mission endeavors, have established trusts, and have thereby contributed to the extraordinary success story which is the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, but by their own preference will never be publicly identified. We acknowledge our debt of gratitude to Norris Stampley for his faithful and dedicated commitment, his integrity, sensitivity, and love for others. Norris was elected in 1981 to serve as a Mississippi Baptist Foundation Trustee, and has served as member and chairman of the Executive Committee. He was chairman of the search committee that brought Hal Fisher, Executive Director, to the Foundation.

Norris and his wife, Mary Virginia, are active members of Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson. They have two daughters, Mrs. Jerry (Virginia Kaye) Allen, of Boone, North Carolina; and Mrs. Warren (Mary Lynn) Cheves, of New Bern, North Carolina; and four grandchildren. In 1995, Norris established the Mary Virginia Stampley Mission Fund in honor of his wife on their 53rd Wedding Anniversary.

This endowment with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is used for mission purposes. It is a particular joy to know that the causes of Christ which Norris believes in and supports today can continue until the Lord returns, while perpetuating the Christian influence of Mary Virginia Stampley.

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For more information, contact the Mississippi Baptist Foundation by calling (601) 292-3210 or 1-800-748-1651, or by writing to P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

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Willing in service

John 13:1-17

By Beth W. Cape

It was a dirty job, probably a smelly one too. That's why it was given to the lowliest servant in the household. When guests came in from walking on the dusty or muddy streets, this lowly servant used water from the great water pots at the door of the house to wash their feet.

Why did Jesus choose to play the role of this the lowliest servant? In Luke's account of the last meal together "a dispute also arose among them as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest." It could have been that this very argument led Jesus to wash the disciples' feet. Jesus chose this

act of love and service to reveal his love for them and to teach them an important lesson.

In our modern times it is difficult to think of people who follow Jesus in this manner of humbly serving others. The book *The Moral Compass*, edited by William J. Bennett, has many poems, stories, and lessons from the past that can be useful to families today.

One story tells about Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She is sometimes called "the saint of the gutters" because of her work in rescuing people from the streets.

In 1948 she founded the



Cape

Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a group of women dedicated to helping the needy, especially the destitute of India.

She said, "It is not enough for me to say: 'I love God.' I also have to love my neighbor... It is very important for us to realize that love, to be true, has to hurt. It hurt Jesus to love us. ... We have been created to love as He loves us. Jesus makes Himself the hungry one, the naked one, the homeless one, and unwanted one, and He says, 'You did it to Me.'" How seldom do we think of the concept of loving or of giving until it hurts.

When we think of service in the church, it's not a hurtful thing for most of us. Much of the service that's done in the church is self-gratifying — that is to say that when we give our-

selves, we get something out of it. Often we get some type of recognition and a certain amount of prestige. We try to do "our share" so that we won't be asked again for awhile. Does that count as serving one another in humility?

Even staff members (myself included) sometimes feel that they are too important to do some menial tasks. Jesus was surely too important to be washing feet yet he wanted to show us in a memorable way that humble service is most important for leaders, even a king such as he was.

There's a story about a recently appointed mandarin (an Asian ruler) and a tailor. The mandarin goes to the tailor to get a new robe to fit his new station in life. After carefully taking his measurements, the tailor asked how long he had been a mandarin. The mandarin asked why he wanted to

know. The tailor replied, "A newly appointed mandarin is so impressed with his office that he holds his head high in the air, sticks his chest out and so I must make the front of his robe longer than the back."

A few years later, when he is busy with his work and level-headed from the stings of experience, then I cut the robe the same length in the front and the back. Later when he is stooped by old age, service and humility, then I must cut the robe so the back is longer than the front."

Let us not wait until old age to learn the lessons of humility. In the words of William Barclay "When we think of our dignity, our prestige, our rights, let us see again the picture of the Son of God, girt with a towel, kneeling at his disciples' feet."

Cape is director of children and family ministry at First Church, Picayune.

LIFE AND WORK

Who cares? We do!

John 4:9-14; Phil. 2:25-30; 1 Thess 5:15;
1 Pet. 4:9-10

By Doug Bain

"What is the biggest problem in the church today?" "I don't know and further more I don't care!" "Come to think of it, you are exactly correct." Lack of wisdom and lack of caring fracture the fellowship and limit outreach and growth.

Wise caring is absolutely necessary in building community. How can we even talk about "building community" when people are so assertive to defend personal boundaries; when both American culture and Christianity have overemphasized individualism and have lost sight of real community?

Even a study of Baptists experience suggests that doctrinal strengths (competency of the individual soul, priesthood of the believer) can function as weaknesses if they get out of balance and cause us to lose sight of community. A study of Scripture in first century Mediterranean context shows that "individual" is always embedded in "community." Theology suggests that God as Trinity is a community of three. "Community" speaks to our fragmented and disconnected experience and against our defensiveness, competitiveness, mistrust, and fear. Scripture says "be ye reconciled one to another."



Bain

This lesson calls us to the risk of significant caring. The Littleton tragedy speaks yet again about our desperate need for community.

Practice hospitality (1 Peter 4:9-10). New Testament writers advised their readers to show the Roman Empire that Christians contribute to a unified community. Christians as good citizens did not threaten the Roman Peace. The church shows the world how people can live together in harmony. Peter encouraged his hearers to build Christian solidarity by showing hospitality. They were also to use their various gifts in behalf of others so that God's grace could be shared. As vs. 10 suggests, "gifts" are situated where we have received special grace for growth. Hospitality and sharing are gracious ways believers today can build a caring sense of community. What an absolutely

fantastic message for the SBC!

Show kindness (1 Thess 5:15). This single verse from the first writing of Paul and the first in the New Testament directs believers to avoid acting on the basis of retaliation and "pay-back time." We are to live redemptively, letting good things emerge from bad things. The spirit of revenge continues to divide many a church, while the world languishes for insight into how to live as community. True community is not based on enforced uniformity and certainly not on such internally destructive forces as revenge (cf. Rom 12:17, 1 Pet 3:9).

Give of yourselves (Phil 2:25-30). When believers in Philippi heard that Epaphroditus had been ill, Paul sent him back to them to ease their minds. Paul commended this loyal messenger for giving himself to the extent of risking life. In urging the readers to welcome and honor Epaphroditus, the text

teaches about investing ourselves in behalf of others. Genuine sharing is built on caring enough to invest time in others, listening and using grace gifts in their behalf.

Share the good message (Jn 9:9-14). Jesus risked crossing social and ethnic boundaries to engage the Samaritan woman in significant disclosure. He quickly let the conversation move from a physical and societal focus to the level of spiritual needfulness. He introduced her to a living water that forever quenches parched spirits. What an incredible model for how Christ-bearers today are to step across boundary lines that fragment community. We are to engage others with Gospel truth that quenches dry souls in the midst of affluence who are drowning in the drought of late 20th century spiritual famine!

Bain is chairman and professor of the Biblical Division at Blue Mountain College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Conquest of doubt

Psalms 73:1-6, 13-18, 21-26

By Ken Hester

Combat veterans deserve respect. I am fortunate to pastor such men from different eras of action. These men have faced a literal life and death struggle. Every one of these men admitted fear in the midst of the fight. Some were physically injured. Some were not. All demonstrated heroism by fighting through their battles. As pastor, I have been privy to hear the catastrophic stories of those reluctant storytellers. They experienced the difficulty of surviving the ordeal of war as well as living with the aftermath. Sharing about those experiences proves difficult as well. Those stories, however, inspire all who care to listen. We become more grateful

and more responsible with our hard fought freedom. We are strengthened by their experience.

Such is the case for the author of Psalm 73. He encountered warfare of the soul. His faith was shelled with doubt and limited perception. Upon reading this psalm, one must hush and give the attentive respect to the lessons of a combat veteran of the faith.

Envy draws first blood. Before the psalmist recounts his story, he testifies to his end result that God is strong (73:1). In the next verse, he begins his tale by contrasting his character from God's. Envy stings the weak heart (73:2-3). The Hebrew word for "foolish" is



Hester

actually "arrogant." C. H. Spurgeon wrote, "His eye was fixed too much on one thing; he saw their present, and forgot their future, saw their outward display and overlooked their soul's discomfort." In his foolishness, evil seemed to sing through life (73:4-6).

The wicked people seemed to be pictures of health; their businesses appeared to be running smoothly; and they had the confidence of super heroes. With his eye on the other side of the fence, his effort sinks to maintain righteousness (73:13-14). The psalmist feels his work to be obedient is worthless due to his struggle. John Trapp wrote, "They that will to heaven, must sail by hell-gates; they that will have knighthood, must kneel for it; and they that will get in at the strait gate, must crowd for it." Beaten, but not broken, the psalmist strives to maintain his trust in God.

Enlightenment draws faith's breakthrough. The inward struggles of the psalmist sought an outward expression of release (73:15-16). He knew, however, that talking of his discontent would have been a damaging blow to other believers. His only refuge then was in the prayer closet. Once he was alone with God, his perspective began to change (73:17). The turning point of this battle came when God revealed to him the end of the wicked. Their confidence would soon turn when the ice they are walking on reveals its lack of depth (73:18). This breakthrough of faith established an endeared and victorious confession of his relationship with God.

Endearment draws final bulwark. Because the psalmist had truth revealed to him by God, he confessed that his struggle was self-afflicted (73:21-22). The word "foolish" in verse 22 is literally "stupid"

in the Hebrew. Once he crests the hill of envy, it was a slippery slope into distress. Although he confessed his personal failure, he also confessed his salvation in God. God is the one that holds on to us (73:23). God is the one that guides us out of our self-made grief into his glory (73:24). God is the one that supports us (73:25). God is the one that strengthens us (73:26). C. H. Spurgeon once wrote, "the greater our nearness to God, the less we are affected by the attractions and distraction of earth. Access into the most holy place is a great privilege, and a cure for a multitude of ills."

Questions for further discussion: Do you think the psalmist is objective in what he sees in verses 3-6? To what might "the sanctuary of God" refer? When your feet have stumbled in the faith, how have you regained your balance?

Hester is pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MARCH 1-31, 1999 MEMORIALS

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Bill Holley
Mrs. Imogene L. Penn
Ms. Maud Marie Holmes
Mrs. Carl O. Haskins
Ottis Holmes
Mrs. Charley W. Jones
Mrs. Josie Hubbard
Mrs. L. F. Angelo
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Mr. Jim Hutchins
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Mrs. Nellie Irish
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Mrs. Jack C. White
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Mr. Matthew Morgan
Ms. Myrtle Ree Jackson
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Brownie Crawford
Mr. Hewell Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
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Mr. & Mrs. George Gatewood
Ms. Erle Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis
Kathy Jones
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy
Mrs. Myrtle Jones
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Mr. & Mrs. Larry S. Benson
Mrs. Cooper L. Patridge
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edward Lee
Mr. Jack Kean
First Baptist Church-Starkville
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rainey Little

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Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Smithy
Mrs. Iva Kelly
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Mr. Earnest Keys
The William R. Defenbaugh Family
Mrs. Mary P. Keys
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Mary Kimbrough
Evelyn Ballard
Mrs. Amye Wiggs & Fly (Gary & Amanda)
Mrs. Mary Kimbrough
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph West
Mr. Joe Davis "Boots" King
Mrs. Lois P. Curry
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The Steve Weeks Family
Rachel Kipp
The Steve Weeks Family
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Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Wadsworth
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Phyllis Lawson
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David Nathan Legge
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Jobie & Jerry Ainsworth
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Bud Montgomery
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Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Clark
Johnny, David & Myrtle Goolsby
Ray Morgan
Wesley Kent Men's SSC, FBC-Brookhaven
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Ms. Maida Stegall & Family
Mrs. Carrie Hibbler Morris
Carolyn, Ken & Chuck Misso
Nancy Mosconi
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Daniel B. Mulholland, Sr.
Mr. William L. Swisher
Lillian J. Boteler & Family

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Mr. Wayne Box
Mrs. W. S. Hammond
Mrs. Mickey Laney
Mr. Bill Odom
Eloise Crossley SSC, FBC-Columbus
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Mr. Bobby T. Oliphant
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Mr. Jack Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Theron Poole
Mrs. MariBee Parks
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Mrs. Dorothy W. Shaw
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Andy Rainery, Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. Anthony D. Sanders
Mrs. A. L. Greene
Mr. Tom Rice, Sr.
Dean & Beth Fulghom
Betty & Jerre Pearson
Mr. & Mrs. Metro Richards
Ms. Ann Dowdle
Lorene Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Lively & Mary Beth
Mrs. Gussie Richardson
Mrs. Floyd Griffin
Terry Michael Riles
Mr. & Mrs. Tom W. Hardage
Frances Riley
Ms. Glynn Lackey
Mr. Merle Riley
Cindy W. Courtney & Doras
Mrs. Jackie Pearl Riley
Eddie & Jane Woodruff
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Mrs. Nell Denson Fenoglio
Mr. George Gilmore
Mr. J. L. Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
Mrs. Claudine P. McCraw
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Speed
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Twentieth Century Club
Jason Darrell Roberson
Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Tucker
Mary Frances Roberson
Mrs. Thelma Bess H. Baggett
Dr. William M. Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh P. McCann
Lamar Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Wade H. Roberts
Carl D. Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Powell
Floyd A. Robinson
Mrs. Austin D. Bowlin & Family
Dr. & Mrs. William L. Costley
Mrs. Mitchell Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. King
(Frances) Sister of Johnnie W. Rog
Arlee, Martha & Hilton Ray
Mrs. Kate Abel Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Scott
Mr. Melvin Runnels
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Miller
Joe Russell
Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Parsons
Thelma & Wheeler Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Lucas
Mr. Calvin Rutland
Arlington Heights Baptist Church
Eva T. Rutledge
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker
Mr. Frank Samuels
Mr. & Mrs. R. M. McAlister
Joe Sandford, Sr.
Mr. Wendell Webb
Viola Trayser Sartor
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Skee Jr.
Janet Denson Schaffer
Darrell & Polly Dickens
Mrs. Christine Scoggins
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rainey Little



Jenny Nolen, BCV Alumnus and professional speaker, recently spoke to the staff of several BCV campuses. Jenny uses her life experiences and laughter to encourage. She and her family reside in Alabama.

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Ralph Smith
Frances & Richie Defenbaugh
Sarah Smith
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Mr. T. L. Waldon
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth
Rev. Tommy Waldon
Mr. & Mrs. Howard B. Grubbs
Tommy Lee Waldon
Cindy H. Shackelford (Merrill Lynch)
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bruton & Family
Mrs. Wilene K. Wales
Willing Workers SSC, Liberty BC
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Linda W. Coleman & Johnny
Mrs. Dovey Walker
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Mr. Danny R. Gregory
Ovis Whittington
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold
Mrs. Katherine Whitworth
Miss Fay Parker
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Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones



The Baptist Children's Village recently enjoyed the volunteer services of individuals participating in the Corporate Community Service Week. There were seven volunteers throughout the week who used their time painting in the BCV cottages.

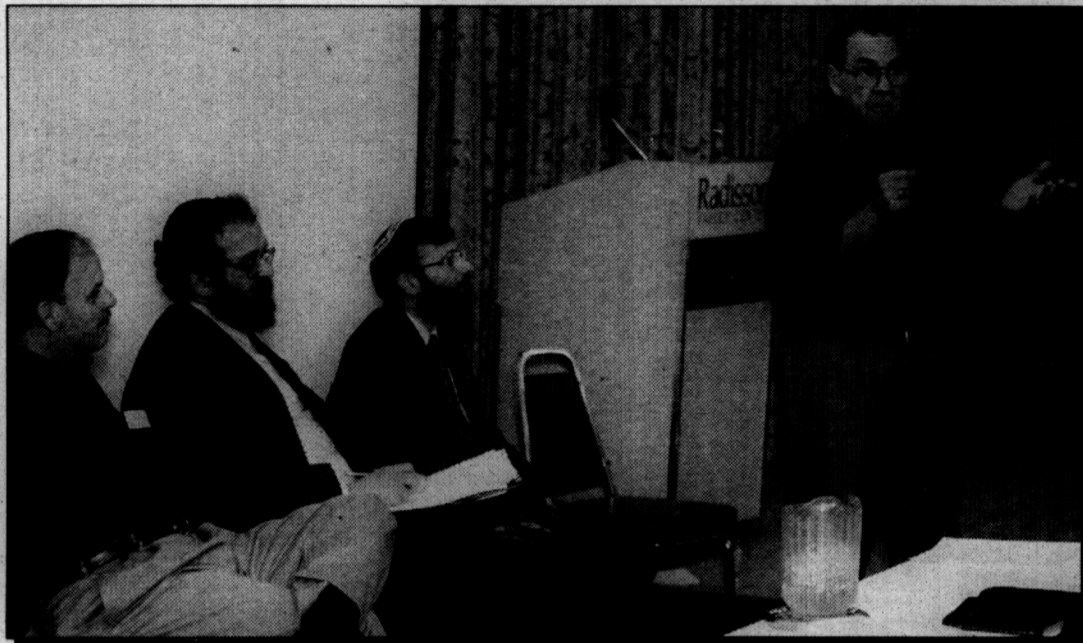
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Barbara Murphy
The Andrews Class, FBC-Shannon
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Mr. & Mrs. Billy G. Nail

Mr. John Sennoff
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. John Shackelford
Mr. & Mrs. Norman N. Fountain
Mrs. Nell Shaw
Karen & Owen Ainsworth
Otto & Bettye Bell
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Emps of Graeber Brothers/Grenada
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Gertha Skelton
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Marcelle A. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Jaggars
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Michael A. Hutchinson
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel R. Lee

Morris: Jewish believers have rich history

LOS ANGELES (BP) — There was a time when the terms "Messianic Jew" or "Jewish Christian" would not have been nearly as explosive as in modern times.



MAKING A POINT — A panel discussion during the March 20-23 annual meeting of state interfaith witness directors in Los Angeles focused on the best form of congregational affiliation for Messianic Jews. Fenton Ward (standing), retired pastor of Tarzana Baptist Chapel and a leader in evangelism among Jews, leads the discussion. (BP photo By James Dotson)

In fact, by the time the rabbinical system of modern Judaism was formulated in A.D. 90, estimates place the number of Jewish followers of Christ between 70,000 and 100,000, said Bob Morris, executive director of the California-based Ariel Ministries.

It has only been in the years since that time, Morris said, that Jewish believers in Yeshua — the Hebrew name for Jesus — were marginalized on both sides by fellow Jews and Christians.

Morris, former pastor of a Messianic

congregation in Portland, Ore., gave a presentation on the history of rabbinic Judaism at the North American Mission Board's annual meeting of state interfaith evangelism directors, which this year focused on Judaism.

It was during the first Jewish revolt of A.D. 70 — which saw the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple — that tensions between the believers and other Jews escalated, Morris said. Because of the prophecy of Christ in Luke 20:22, they knew that, "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies you will know that its desolation is near." So the believers followed the Messiah's instructions and fled "to the mountains" — the city of Pella — at the first signs of the impending siege, Morris said. When the Romans returned to Jerusalem, no Jewish believers were among those killed.

"It widened the gap between the Jewish believers and the [broader] Jewish community," Morris said during the March 20-23 conference.

"When the Jewish believers left Jerusalem, the thinking was that they abandoned the city to destruction."

Because of the accurate prophecy recognized by the Jewish believers before the destruction of Jerusalem, their beliefs began to gain more widespread acceptance, Morris said. By A.D. 90, there were an estimated 70,000-100,000 Jewish believers out of a total population of approximately 3.5 million Jews.

Synagogues were still the center of great debates about the theological issues involved — particularly over the issues

raised by the destruction of the temple and the new system of rabbinic Judaism.

"Messianic Jews worshiped in the synagogue," Morris said. "Many unsaved Jewish people listened to these discourses, and many became convinced." As a result, certain rabbis took steps to expel the Jews, including a statement known as the "Birkat Ha-Minim," which Morris said meant "Curse of the Minim [Jewish believers]" in the sense it was used.

"The purpose for this curse was to isolate the Messianic Jews and push them out of the synagogue," Morris said.

Although the Minim were not a part of the synagogue, they were still considered part of the community until the time of the second Jewish revolt, the Bar Cochba Revolt of A.D. 132-135, Morris said. About halfway through that struggle, a leader arose with a strong following of Jews who believed him to be the Messiah. The Jewish believers withdrew because they could not be a part of a movement that was now under the religious banner of a false messiah. They became known as "destroyers" or "traitors."

By the time of the Council of Nicea in 325 — organized to confront heretical views of the nature of Christ from both Gentile and Jewish Christian sects — there were no Jewish believers represented. "The council never really understood the Messianic believer, other than to denounce" the entire Messianic Jewish community, Morris said.

By the end of the fourth century, Messianic Judaism had ceased to exist as a movement, he said. Only in the latter part of this century has the movement been revived.

Rosen: witnessing to Jews should be 'litmus test'

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with Jewish friends may be one of the most difficult things for Christians to do, but it nevertheless should be a "litmus test" for Christian denominations professing to be evangelistic, the founder of the San Francisco-based Jews for Jesus said.

Moishe Rosen, speaking at the North American Mission Board's annual interfaith evangelism state directors meeting, lauded the board's shift in recent years toward including Jews among other non-Christian faith groups specifically addressed through interfaith evangelism materials and training.

"When you go to a people that have more education than you, with a message that originally came from them that they now deny ... when you make a commitment to that people, it is only for one reason," Rosen said during the March 20-23 conference in Los Angeles "and that is that you know Jesus."

Rosen founded Jews for Jesus 25 years ago after serving as a missionary to the Jews since 1954. His premise with the new organization was that evangelism efforts to that point had been too careful about avoiding conflict, when there was really no effort to preach the message of the cross without risking offense. The bold efforts of Jews for Jesus eventually became a key part of the

modern movement of Messianic or Christian Jews.

Rosen noted Christians often attempt to rely heavily on scriptural evidence from the Hebrew Bible — the Old Testament — pointing to Jesus Christ as the Messiah, when even Orthodox Jews do not hold all Scriptures to the same standard as evangelical Christians. Like many groups, so much of their belief system comes not from the original Scriptures but from the teachings of their leaders.

"Jewish people have been systematically indoctrinated that they do not have ability to understand or judge apart from the rabbis," Rosen said. "And they don't understand that the rabbis don't agree among themselves on anything except one thing — that Jesus is not the Messiah."

It is only recently, Rosen said, that he has realized the vast majority of Jewish believers were not convinced of the gospel by arguments from the Old Testament. "You know what

influenced them? Something that you have right at your hand: the person of Jesus himself." Testimonies of several Jewish Christians at the conference illustrated his statement; several noted how they discovered the truth of Christ only after reading about him and his teachings in the New Testament.

Reaching Jews with the gospel today is especially difficult because of the shift in focus of Jewish anti-defamation groups during this century, Rosen said.

The focus became improving relations with liberal Christian groups, trying to prevent Christians from evangelizing Jews, advancing a liberal political agenda and promoting the nation of Israel.

Rosen said it is because of this emphasis that evangelical Christians have been made to feel anti-Semitic — even though Christ and the first Christians were Jews and it was only later that Christianity was purged from the synagogues.

His advice to gentiles witnessing to Jews: Don't back down from the message of the cross, which by its nature is offensive.

"Opposition gives you an opportunity," Rosen said, noting one opportunity is to craft well-written responses to public articles denouncing the right of Christians to share their faith with Jews. "There's almost an obligation to publish that," he pointed out.



DON'T BACK DOWN — Moishe Rosen, founder and former executive director of Jews for Jesus, makes a point from the audience during a panel discussion on the best form of congregational affiliation for Messianic Jews. The discussion was a part of the North American Mission Boards March 20-23 annual meeting for state interfaith evangelism directors. (BP photo by James Dotson)

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FAY CLUYEF, TAYZ AY
AKFA ZL OUYX? TVHH K
XLRZB HVLZ MUX LRF LC
AVE QYZ, VC AY AKPY
FKDYZ ZLFAVZB?

KGLE FAUYY: CLRU

Clue: C = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Twenty-Six: Fifty-Two.